

**The Importance of Forests.**

With the relatively modern development of civilization we are coming to the third state of the relation of man to forests: a stage when he finds that this tree covering of the lands is necessary for the maintenance of those conditions of climate and timber-supply on which the utility of the earth to him in good part depends. The forester, that essence of the practical man, is still a slayer of woods, and believes that he serves the god of progress by the sacrifice of the forest. But as knowledge advances, the thoughtful classes become more and more concerned as to the conditions of this earth during the centuries to come, when this swift advancing ruin of our woods shall have been completed. Most persons will heartily agree that it is our bounden duty to transmit the inheritance which we enjoy in the earth unimpaired to the generations yet to be. It is, unhappily, impossible for us to manage the store of utilities which the earth affords that there shall be no diminution of the supply for the ages yet to come. It is probable that the supply of coal will in good part have disappeared before they ear 3000; and in the fourth millennial period of our era, a time less remote in the future than the birth of Christ in the past, the metals now in use will have to be won with great difficulty if obtained at all. Still we may trust the advance of knowledge and skill to compensate for these losses; solar energy may be trusted to afford heat and aluminum to take the place of iron; and the world may be the better for the change which forced a rustless metal and a dustless fuel into use—  
at any rate, we see that the supply of mineral resources of the earth necessary for our successors may be prolonged for a time in the future which is long beyond our power to conceive.

It is otherwise with the soil covering of the earth's surface. So far as we can see, that is the least enduring and the least replaceable of any of those features on which the life of the earth depends. It is the harvest of ages; and once lost, it cannot be supplied save by eons of time. The most serious misfortune connected with the reckless destruction of our forests arises from the loss of the soil from large areas of land, by which regions naturally fertile have been converted into deserts of irredeemable sterility. Already a large part of many fertile regions have been sterilized in this fashion; and each year a larger portion of this infinitely precious heritage of life slips into the rivers, and finds its way to the sea, because we have deprived it of the protecting coating of vegetation. Therefore, it is not alone on account of the surpassing intellectual interest that forests present to us but also from the gravest reasons of economy, that they deserve to be attentively studied.—From "Forests of North America," by Prof. N. S. Shaler, in *Scribner* for May.

**Through Jest.**

Marriages are often the result of chance. Many are determined by a mere jest. It is marvelous how sensible, prudent persons will conceive an irresistible attachment at the suggestion of a word or a look.

At a bazaar, got up for a religious object, the minister, who had just been appointed, gave so much attention to a particular lady, that one of his elders thought it prudent to interfere. Taking him aside for the purpose, he said simply, "Mind! They will be speakin'."

Comprehending the situation, and remembering that the elder possessed a keen sense of humor, he replied: "It's all right, John. They can say nothing. A man may love his neighbor himself, you know."

"No doubt, no doubt," said John, with a twinkle in his eye, "a man may love his neighbor as himself; but can he love her as his wife?"

"That's a question I never thought about," said the other nonplussed. However, John's rebuke having forced the question upon him, he decided in the affirmative, and returning to the lady forthwith, proposed, and was accepted.

An eminent doctor who had saved the life of a lady, a personal friend, was asked his charge. He said he generally allowed his patient-friends to remunerate him as they thought best fitting. "But don't you often get disappointed on these terms?" she inquired.

"I may say, never."

"As you are so easily pleased, here," and she playfully gave him her empty hand, while in the other was concealed a check for a handsome sum. "How easily I could have taken you in!" she added, producing a check.

"But you have only succeeded in drawing me out," he said, declining to relinquish her hand. "Don't insult me with a check; I am most generous by reward."

Perhaps she understood the doctor's difficulty, and wished to help him out of it; at any rate, the giving of her hand led him to offer his heart.

A gentleman entering a tobacco shop asked a girl behind the counter, who happened to have red hair, if she would oblige him with a match. "With pleasure, if you will have a red headed one," she promptly replied, with such a suggestive, demure smile that she aroused his interest. Further conversation proved her to be a person worthy a regard, and eventually the red-headed match was handed over.

A lady with fine figure having taken a fancy to a valuable ring which she saw ticketed in a shop window, went inside to examine it. "It is exceedingly lovely; I wish it were mine," she said on satisfying herself. "What smaller figure will tempt you?"

"No other figure than the figure before me," he said, giving her an admiring look at the same time. "It is exceedingly lovely. I wish—I could tempt you with the ring."

"I think I'll take it," she said, laying down the money amidst blushes. Of course he accepted the money;

but getting her address, he made such good use of the hint, that the next ring which she got was given by him in church.

Quite as singular was the beginning of the courtship of the man who went into a shop for a pair of boots. "I want them white, please," he said to the girl in attendance, "as I have a good, broad understanding."

She laughed at this reference to the breadth of his feet, and said: "A very good thing too in a man, but not in a woman."

"How do you make out that what is good in one sex is bad in the other?"

"Ah, it is quite simple. You see nature intended man to be supported by a firm sole woman by a yielding husband!"

A lady in a railway train kept looking out at the window with her head well forward until she remembered that the gentleman opposite might possibly object.

"Do I cut off the view?" she asked.

"Merely of all I do not wish to see!" he replied gallantly.

The ice having been thus broken, they entered into conversation, found they were to get out at the same station, and knew each other's friends. The rest was plain sailing into what somebody calls the " matrimonial haven."

"Are you married yet, Kitty?" said a sailor on meeting an old acquaintance after returning from a long voyage.

"No; that somebody has never come."

"Ah, then, I have brought him, after a deal of bother," he said, and the master was then and there settled.

This was ingenious enough, like the case of the theatrical manager who was brought to the point when he called to inform his leading actress that he had secured a play at last which was sure to have a long run.

"What part have you reserved for me?" she asked.

"You are to be a charming sweetheart, as you are."

"Is there a wife in the piece?"

"There is."

"Then I have done charming sweethearts till I am tired. I must be a wife in the long run." And she was.

Nellie, whose grandfather began life as cabin boy and finished as a millionaire, was paid by her mother 1 cent a dozen for picking wild strawberries, and kept the baby from eating them. "Nurse," said Nellie, as her stock of pennies increased, "do you know what I am going to do when I have 6 cents?" "No," answered nurse. "I am going to buy a paper of pins and scatter them over the door, and sweep them up," replied the young financier, who was barely 5 years old.—Babyhood.

Child—Grandpa, how old are you? Grandpa—I am 87 years old, my little dear. Child—Then you were born 80 years before I was. Grandpa—Yes, my little girl. Child—What a long time you had alone waiting for me. The Gospel Age.

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